IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented): An image processing method for generating a full-view panoramic image by compositing a plurality of images each of which has overlapping portions with neighboring images, comprising the steps of:

acquiring, when an arbitrary one of the plurality of images is defined as a first image, and images to be composited as right and left neighboring images of the first image are defined as second and third images, a first reference image having overlapping portions with both the first and second images, and a second reference image having overlapping portions with both the first and third images;

calculating first and second conversion conditions required to adjust a hue or brightness level of the first image to hue or brightness levels of the first and second reference images;

generating a converted image by converting a left predetermined region of the first image on the basis of the first conversion condition and converting a right predetermined region of the first image on the bases of the second conversion condition, and

generating a full-view panoramic image by compositing the converted images generated for all of the plurality of images,

wherein the conversions based on the first and second conversion conditions are weighted depending on distances from right and left ends of the first image.

11. (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the first and second reference images are generated from one image.

12. (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program that makes a computer execute an image processing method for generating a full-view panoramic image by compositing a plurality of images each of which has overlapping portions with neighboring images, said computer program comprising:

code of a step of acquiring, when an arbitrary one of the plurality of images is defined as a first image, and images to be composited as right and left neighboring images of the first image are defined as second and third images, a first reference image having overlapping portions with both the first and second images, and a second reference image having overlapping portions with both the first and third images;

code of a step of calculating first and second conversion conditions required to adjust a hue or brightness level of the first image to hue or brightness levels of the first and second reference images;

code of a step of generating a converted image by converting a left predetermined region of the first image on the basis of the first conversion condition and converting a right predetermined region of the first image on the basis of the second conversion condition; and

code of a step of generating a full-view panoramic image by compositing the converted images generated for all of the plurality of images,

wherein the conversions on the basis of the first and second conversion conditions are weighted depending on distances from right and left ends of the first image.

13. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus for generating a full-view panoramic image by compositing a plurality of images each of which has overlapping portions with neighboring images, comprising:

an acquiring unit adapted to, when an arbitrary one of the plurality of images is defined as a first image, and images to be composited as right and left neighboring images of the first image are defined as second and third images, acquire a first reference image having overlapping portions with both the first and second images, and a second reference image having overlapping portions with both the first and third images;

a calculating unit adapted to calculate first and second conversion conditions required to adjust a hue or brightness level of the first image to hue or brightness levels of the first and second reference images;

a first generating unit adapted to generate a converted image by converting a left predetermined region of the first image on the basis of the first conversion condition and converting a right predetermined region of the first image on the basis of the second conversion condition; and

a second generating unit adapted to generate a full-view panoramic image by compositing the converted images generated for all of the plurality of images,

wherein, in said first generating unit, the conversions on the basis of the first and second conversion conditions are weighted depending on distances from the right and left ends of the first image.